

To: Carrique, Thomas (OPP)[Thomas.Carrique@opp.ca]
Cc: DiMarco, Rose (OPP)[Rose.DiMarco@opp.ca]
From: Harkins, Chris (OPP)[Chris.Harkins@opp.ca]
Sent: Mon 2/7/2022 7:35:45 AM (UTC-05:00)
Subject: Fw: Summary of my video call with OPS command this evening

Summary of last night's call.
Will assist us with this mornings 830 call.

Chris

Chris Harkins
Deputy Commissioner
Field Operations
Ontario Provincial Police

From: Thomas, Karl (OPP)
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 06:17
To: Harkins, Chris (OPP)
Cc: Harmer, Heather (OPP); Patterson, Stephanie (OPP)
Subject: Fw: Summary of my video call with OPS command this evening

Deputy I would like to have a call on Craig's concerns to discuss next steps.

Karl

Sent from Mobile

From: Abrams, Craig (OPP)
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 11:07 p.m.
To: Thomas, Karl (OPP); Patterson, Stephanie (OPP); Alakas, Daniel (OPP); Varga, Joseph (OPP)
Subject: Summary of my video call with OPS command this evening

Chief's et al.

The following is a summary of the OPS video call that Insp. Beaudin asked me participate in on his behalf this evening. The call lasted almost an hour so I will keep this as brief as possible.

I can say that OPS Chief Sloly said numerous times that PLT needs to be embedded and engaged in operations and that it was mission critical that they be. I sensed however that they just do not understand how best to utilize PLT. They see them as a unit that comes along on a take down and announce, " You are being arrested if you do not drive away" Then the subject is immediately arrested when they don't. They miss the engagement and relationship building and helping to form exit strategies etc..

Dr. Peter Collins was on the line and said regardless of the nice things the Chief said about PLT, the PLT unit want to quit. The PLT team is now perceived as not trustworthy and the team feels demoralized. He advised that it will take some time to get them back as part of the team. They feel as though they are not appreciated. Dr. Collins advised that the team was making good in roads with the Convoy organizers and block captains but that is now all lost due to a lack of trust stemming from the Coventry Road gas arrests that occurred this evening.

OPS Command feels that there is a silver lining as the arrests were made away from the fuel depot so there is not as strong a connection between PLT and the arrests. Deputy Chief Steve Bell asked OPS PLT Co-ordinator S/Sgt John Ferguson if he was briefed on the OPS posture change to making arrests for gas possession today and S/Sgt Ferguson stated he was NOT briefed and was NOT aware. S/Sgt Ferguson feels he now does not know what PLT's role is and Deputy Bell stated he would speak to him offline about it.

They then had a long conversation about staffing and again Chief Sloly stated that PLT needed to be embedded in all they do. Chief Sloly expects all policing partners will engage in arrests for Aiding and Abetting the offence of Mischief and if they refuse then he will call that police services senior management to ensure they do.

I was not asked to speak on the call. At the end I was asked to confirm the rumour that OPP PLT was leaving. I explained that it was in fact the OPS PLT members who suggested our PLT folks leave because the Coventry Road fuel arrests had made their jobs untenable and there seemed to be no use trying any longer using PLT tactics since the trust was now broken. I assured OPS Senior Command that PLT are still on the ground and still intend to stick to the commitments we have made to them and we will see this mission through to the end.

They have two major operational plans upcoming:

- 1) Dynamic arrests and takedown of the Rideau and Sussex intersection. Supt. Patterson stated they planned to do that tomorrow but due to lack of assets it will be postponed to likely Wednesday.
- 2) They will have a call tomorrow at 0900 that myself and Supt. Alakas are invited on and I was advised that they will work through the top Convoy organizers and influencers and will pick a few and there will be planned arrests and extractions tomorrow of those persons. They want PLT engaged in that along with POU teams.

I did ask to speak to someone after the call and Supt Mark Patterson said he would call me.

I spoke to Supt Patterson and explained my concerns that there was no consultation, engagement or dialogue with the OPP about a plan to arrest and charge persons possessing fuel with Aiding and Abetting Mischief. There were no discussions about legal authorities or the lawfulness of such arrests etc..

As a result I advised him that until I was provided the legal opinion and information about this arrest plan, NO OPP members would be advised to engage in any arrests for fuel possession until that permission comes from Senior OPP Command.

I further stated that in relation to their plan to conduct snatch and grab arrests of persons tomorrow, that is also not within the OPP POU Framework. I explained the framework and how we use PLT to enter into dialogue and discussions and explain consequences and talk about exit strategies etc.. and these talks can last for days or weeks and only after it is felt that a complete impasse has been reached do we turn our minds to possibly making arrests with our POU. I advised that if an order to engage comes from OPS Command and it does not fit within our POU operating frameworks, we would not be participating in that activity.

Myself and Supt Alakas are slated to be on a call with OPS at 0900 tomorrow and we will further expand on these topics.

I am told that a Crown Attorney will be sending me their legal opinion on the lawfulness of making arrests and laying charges for possessing fuel and once I receive that I will forward it up for Commands information and await direction on if we will be allowing our members to participate in such arrests. I foresee great risk if we make an arrest for aiding and abetting and if the arrestee is injured and SIU is called and they see the arrest as unlawful, then our members will be in serious legal jeopardy along with the OPP itself.

There was no opportunity to discuss Major Incident Command tactics or issues we have seen within their command and control of this event.

Tks,

Craig

Craig Abrams
Superintendent
East Region
Ontario Provincial Police

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